

Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 SCA-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-11

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03 DRC-01 /066 W

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R 080803Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

RO RUEHC/SECSTATE WAHDC 2586

INFO AMEMBASSY TELAVIV

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 4965

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS PFOR CVIS TW IS

SUBJECT: ROC VISA POLICY RE ISRAELI CITIZENS

REF: TAIPEI 3732

1. MOFA VISA SECTION CHIEF WEI CHI-LUN CONFIRMED THAT ROC HAS TIGHTENED VISA PROCEDURES APPLICABLE TO ISRAELI PPT HOLDERS. HE STATED THAT ISRAEL, AS COUNTRY NOT MAINTAINING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ROC, FALLS UNDER CATEGORY REQUIRING REFERRAL OF ALL VISA APPLICATIONS TO MOFA, UNLESS EXCEPTION SPECIFICALLY GRANTED BY FOREIGN MINISTER. EARLIER, ROC OFFICES HAD BEEN PERMITTED ISSUE VISITORS VISAS ON LOCAL AUTHORITY. THIS WAS CHANGED APPROXIMATELY TWO MONTHS AGO. WEI SAID NO DISCRIMINATION INVOLVED SINCE APPLICATIONS FROM EGYPTIANS, SYRIANS, AND IRAQIS FALL IN SAME CATEGORY. ASKED WHETHER CHANGE WAS RESULT OF PRESSURE FROM ARAB LEADERS, WEI REPLIED HE "COULD NOT ANSWER THAT QUESTION".

2. LOCAL ISRAELI CONTACTS CLAIM 20-30 BUSINESSMEN UNABLE TO SECURE VISAS SINCE JUNE, INCLUDING SOME APPLICANTS WHO HAD VISITED PREVIOUSLY. IN THEIR VIEW, ROC NOW ISSUING
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VISAS ONLY TO ISRAELIS IN WHOM GOVERNMENT HAS VERY

SPECIFIC INTEST.

3. COMMENT: WHETHER OR NOT DIRECT PRESSURE INVOLVED,
CHANGE IN VISA PROCEDURES CERTAINLY INTENDED BOLSTER
ROC-ARAB RELATIONS, PARTICULARLY WITH SAUDI ARABIA.
WE UNDERSTAND FROM REASONABLY AUTHORITATIVE LOCAL ISRAELI
SOURCE THAT GOI/GROC WORKING RELATIONSHIPS INCREASINGLY ATTENUATED.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BUSINESSMEN, TRAVEL CONTROLS, ENTRY VISAS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 AUG 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: blochd0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974TAIPEI04965
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740216-1102
From: TAIPEI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740862/aaaacbmp.tel
Line Count: 69
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: TAIPEI 3732
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: blochd0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 JUN 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 JUL 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <27 FEB 2003 by cunninfx>; WITHDRAWN <13 Jun 2005 by BoyleJA, PRIVACY>; RELEASED <17 JUN 2005 by powellba2>; APPROVED <20 JUN 2005 by blochd0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ROC VISA POLICY RE ISRAELI CITIZENS
TAGS: PFOR, CVIS, TW, IS
To: n/a
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005